

# 60th Annual Commemoration

## Merchant Navy War Memorial

*Coordinated by*



The Merchant Navy War  
Memorial Fund Ltd  
(MNWMF)

*In partnership with*



**Metropolitan  
Memorial Parks**



Sunday 13th April, 2025

1030 for commencement at 1100 hours

Followed by refreshments within the Memorial Garden



## Crossed The Bar during period April 2024 to April 2025

*Our Merchant Navy Veterans who served our country in the Australian Merchant Navy during a period of 'declared war' and were awarded at least one medal for that courageous service and have 'Crossed the Bar' since the previous Rookwood Commemoration, April 2024*

### WWII Veterans NSW

Capt. Colin Dwyer WWII - 11/03/2025

Donald Edward Kennedy OAM WWII - 23/11/2024

William (Bill) Robbie WWII – 20/06/2024

*Those members of Merchant Navy Organisations who have "Crossed the Bar" since the previous Rookwood Commemoration, April 2024.*

#### New South Wales

David Baxendale – 16/03/2024

Gerard (Gerry) Bourke RAN Korean Veteran – 04/03/2025

Colin Cockley – 17/10/2024

Kevin (Doug) Curtin – 14/08/2024

Capt. Graham Dawson – 25/01/2025

Philip (Phil) Helmore Naval Architect – 02/03/2025

Dudley Hepworth – July 2024

Capt. Robert Legatt – April 2024

Capt. Jim London – 29/07/2024

Edward (Ted) Miles – 09/05/2024

George Spruce – 12/07/2024

Capt. Peter Wallington-Beddoe – August 2023

Capt. Edward Wilson – 20/04/2024

#### Victoria

Capt. John Turnbull - 02/04/2024

Capt. Peter Varani – 09/01/2024

#### Queensland

John Miller C/Eng – 17/02/2024

Capt. Peter Stockings – 11/08/2024

#### South Australia

Phil Mason Past President MNA South Aust. – 30/10/2023

Capt. Ian Frazer – 31/07/2024

#### Western Australia

Capt. David Aslett – 31/01/2025

## CROSSING THE BAR

*Poem by Alfred, Lord Tennyson 1889, Poet Laureate*

*(In memory of those who have crossed the Bar Since the previous Rookwood Commemoration)*

1. Sunset and evening star,  
And one clear call for me!  
And may there be no moaning of the bar,  
When I put out to sea,
2. But such a tide as moving seems asleep,  
Too full for sound and foam,  
When that which drew from out the boundless deep  
Turns again home.
3. Twilight and evening bell,  
And after that the dark!  
And may there be no sadness of farewell,  
When I embark;
4. For tho' from out our bourne of Time and Place  
The flood may bear me far,  
I hope to see my Pilot face to face  
When I have crossed the bar.

# Order of Commemoration

**Master of Ceremonies** *Sean Barrett, Chairman*  
*The Merchant Navy War Memorial Fund Ltd (MNWMF)*

- Welcome • Acknowledgement of Country
- Introductions • Opening Remarks

## Officiating Clergy

• *Sister Mary Leahy OAM, Chaplain, Stella Maris, Sydney & Regional Co-Ordinator Oceania.*  
*Awarded in 2017, by the Holy Father Pope Francis, the Papal Honour of: Croce pro Ecclesia et Pontifice for distinguished services to the Catholic Church in the Archdiocese of Sydney*

## Music Program

### The Bankstown & Yagoona Brass

*Mr. Rae Forrester, Music Director*  
*Accompanied by Mrs. Helen Marks, Secretary*  
*Mrs. Finola McMahon leading us in singing.*

## Hymn / Psalm 46: God is our Strength and Refuge

Tune: Dambusters March  
(Composer Eric Coates. 1886-1957)

1. God is our strength and refuge  
our present help in trouble;  
and we therefore will not fear  
though the earth should change!  
Though mountains shake and tremble  
though swirling floods are raging  
God the Lord of Hosts  
is with us ever more.
2. There is a flowing river  
within God's holy city;  
God is in the midst of her -  
she shall not be moved!  
God's help is swiftly given,  
thrones vanish at His presence -  
God the Lord of Hosts  
is with us evermore!
3. Come, see the works of our Maker  
learn of His deeds all powerful;  
wars can cease across the world  
when He shatters the spear!  
Be still and know your Creator,  
uplift Him in the nations -  
God the Lord of Hosts  
is with us evermore!

## Reading: Gospel according to Matthew 8:23-27

### *Jesus Calms the Storm*

*Mr. David Parmeter*  
*Chairman Australian Mariners' Welfare Society (AMWS)*

## **The Naval Hymn** **Eternal Father, Strong to Save**

Words: William Whiting, Winchester, England 1860

Tune: 'Melita' John B. Dykes 1861

1. Eternal Father, strong to save,  
whose arm hath bound the restless wave,  
who bidd'st the mighty ocean deep  
Its own appointed limits keep;  
Oh, hear us when we cry to Thee,  
For those in peril on the sea!
2. O Christ! Whose voice the waters heard  
And hushed their raging at Thy Word,  
Who walkest on the foaming deep,  
And calm amidst the storm didst sleep;  
Oh, hear us when we cry to Thee,  
For those in peril on the sea!
3. O Holy Spirit! Who didst brood  
Upon the waters dark and rude,  
and bid their angry tumult cease,  
and give, for wild confusion, peace;  
Oh, hear us when we cry to Thee,  
For those in peril on the sea!

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND THANKSGIVING**

#### **For King and Country And Thanksgiving for The Merchant Navy**

*Mr. John Kewa, Lay Chaplain, Mission to Seafarers Port Kembla*

#### **The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father, who art in heaven  
Hallowed be thy name  
Thy Kingdom come  
Thy will be done  
On earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
As we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom  
The power and the glory,  
For ever and ever. Amen



# INTRODUCTION OF GUEST OF HONOUR

*Capt. Ted van Bronswijk, Director*  
*The Merchant Navy War Memorial Fund Ltd (MNWMF)*

## Guest of Honour Delivering the 2025 Merchant Navy Address

### *Commodore Christopher “Kit” Rynd, FNI*

Kit Rynd was born in New Zealand and grew up in Sri Lanka, Singapore, Fiji & Samoa. He began his sea career as an apprentice in Union Steamship Company of New Zealand. He



has also completed extensive and ongoing company sponsored training from Advanced Fire Fighting Dynamic Positioning to Emergency Ship Handling on an annual basis as well as the STCW required training and updates.

In 2000 Kit was promoted to Captain and has commanded nine different classes/types of passenger ships including the liner Queen Mary 2.

He has served as an Expert Witness in maritime affairs for the High Court of New South Wales.

Christopher Rynd was appointed Commodore of Cunard Line in April 2011 and is a Fellow of the Nautical Institute. Kit has been married to his wife Julie since 1980.

He retired from full time seagoing career in September 2018 and is now a part time consultant in maritime affairs with special interest in Human Factors training and Bridge Team management implementation.



# ACT OF REMEMBRANCE

## THE ODE

*Mr. Paul Trangmar, Director*

*The Merchant Navy War Memorial Fund Ltd (MNWMF)*

*They have no grave but the cruel sea;*

*No flowers lay at their head;*

*A rusting hulk is their tombstone, afast on the ocean bed.*

*Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.*

*At the going down of the sun and in the morning;*

*We will remember them.*

**All say:** **We will remember them**

**Mr. Paul Trangmar:** **Lest we forget**

**All say:** **Lest we forget**



**THE LAST POST - Bugler, David Young, The Bankstown & Yagoona Brass**

*(In military tradition, the Last Post is the bugle call that signifies the end of the day's activities.*

*It is also sounded at military funerals to indicate that the soldier has gone to his final rest and at commemorative services)*

**ONE MINUTE' S SILENCE - a sign of respect and a time for reflection, concluding with 8 bells.** Rung by **Mr. Garry Marks. Treasurer & Librarian, The Bankstown & Yagoona Brass** *(Signaling the conclusion of the one minute's silence, 8 Bells will toll which is recognised on board ships as 'the end of watch' but is also a way of saying, a Sailors or Merchant Mariners own watch is over...a nautical euphemism for "finished". The MNWMF thanks the Bankstown City Band for arranging the 8 Bells).*

**ROUSE - Bugler, David Young, The Bankstown & Yagoona Brass**

*(After the one minute's silence and 8 bells, flags are raised from half mast to the masthead as the Rouse is sounded. Today it is associated with the Last Post at all military funerals, and at services of dedication and remembrance).*

*Flag Attendants - Miss Rebecca Muscat, & Miss Annette Espenes, Members of The Bankstown & Yagoona Brass*

## LAYING OF WREATHS

*Introductions by: Sean Barrett, Chairman & Capt. Ted van Bronswijk, Director, MNWMF.*

*Co-Ordination of Wreaths to be laid & Wreath Bearers: Paul Trangmar & Denis Speyer, Directors MNWMF, & Stan Moriarty, Secretary, MNWMF.*

*And with the valued assistance of Wreath Bearers Garry Marks, Stan Moriarty & Members of The Bankstown & Yagoona Brass.*

## FINAL PRAYER AND BENEDICTION

*Sister Mary Leahy. OAM*

## CLOSING COMMENTS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

*Sean Barrett, Chairman - The Merchant Navy War Memorial Fund*

## The Australian National Anthem

Australians all let us rejoice  
For we are one and free;  
We've golden soil and wealth for toil;  
Our home is girt by sea;  
Our land abounds in nature's gifts  
Of beauty rich and rare;  
In history's page, let every stage  
Advance Australia Fair.  
In joyful strains then let us sing  
Advance Australia Fair.



PLEASE JOIN FOR REFRESHMENTS WITHIN THE MEMORIAL GARDEN



**Metropolitan  
Memorial Parks**

### DONATIONS, BEQUESTS, SPONSORSHIPS OF PROJECTS

#### **Donations may be directed to:**

The Secretary, Merchant Navy War Memorial Fund Ltd  
PO Box 3058, Rosemeadow NSW 2560

#### **OR by EFT to:**

Account Name: **MNWMF Project Development Fund**  
BSB: 032 197 Account No.: 477 684 Reference: Your name

**Please Note:** if paying by EFT please forward an email with your name, address, phone & organisation (*if applicable*) to [secretary@mnwmf.com.au](mailto:secretary@mnwmf.com.au)

A receipt will be forwarded for all donations received.

If you would like to discuss how you can assist, please make contact with Sean Barrett,  
Chairman, [Sean.Barrett@dpworld.com](mailto:Sean.Barrett@dpworld.com) 0407 490 516

# THE MERCHANT NAVY WAR MEMORIAL FUND

## STRATEGIC PLAN 2025–2027

### MAJOR PROJECTS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE CONTINUED RECOGNITION OF THE AUSTRALIAN MERCHANT NAVY AND OF ITS VITAL IMPORTANCE TO THE NATION'S PROSPERITY

- (i) **Encouragement of the next generation, to take up our and our predecessors' passion and commitment to ensure the future Australian Merchant Navy recognition is as secure in the future as in the past and the present. We remain highly committed to continuing to work in what we believe is the best interests of our cherished Merchant Navy veterans and the wider Australian maritime community.**

- (ii) Continuing promotion & installation of the Merchant Navy emblem on existing war memorials throughout Australia.

Addition of Merchant Navy badge on  
St Andrews Village Memorial Bravery Garden,  
Ballina NSW opened on 15-10-2022 and co-funded by MNWMF.



- (iii) Equal recognition of the Merchant Navy Ensign on National Flag Day – 3rd September annually, which is also Merchant Navy Day.

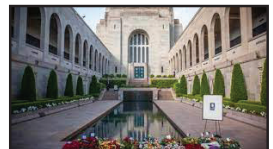


- (iv) Submission to NSW Government via Premier The Hon. Chris Minns, MP, for the re-instatement of the Merchant Navy Ensign on the top of the Sydney Harbour Bridge, or failing that, on the bridge pylons on Merchant Navy Day, 3rd September annually.



- (v) Additional recognition of the role of the Merchant Navy within the Australian War Memorial (AWM).

- (vi) Establish a protocol with AWM that on Australian National Flag Day/Merchant Navy Day (3 Sept annually) that:



- (a) The Red Ensign be flown with the Australian National Flag above the AWM; and

- (b) Merchant Navy representative be among those laying wreaths at the Last Post Ceremony on 3rd September, that takes place at approx. 4.45pm AEDT in the commemorative courtyard.



- (vii) Support the AWM **“Places of Pride”** launched by AWM in November 2018 to record all memorials throughout Australia on the national register.

